1989 Calendar of Events

Walking Wabash

Exploring Historical Landmarks of Downtown Terre Haute

A project of
Terre Haute Landmarks Inc. and
The Downtown Business Association.
Produced in cooperation with the
Tourism Development Division,
Indiana Department of Commerce
1-800-289-6646

1 **Terre Haute House***—Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue. Opened in 1928, this Renaissance Revival landmark in the northeast quadrant of the "Crossroads of America" succeeded the Prairie House, erected in 1838 by Chauncey Rose and expanded and remodeled several times, particularly in 1888-89. Rose renamed his hotel the Terre Haute House in 1854. Much lore originates from the hotel, its Mayflower Room and Marine Room, as well as its predecessor. McKeen Block, later Fairbanks Block (cover), was in the northwest quadrant of the intersection between 1885 and 1966.

2 **Merchants National Bank***—701 Wabash Avenue. Completed by **Terre Haute Trust Co.** in 1908, this Neoclassical Chicago-style bank in the southeast quadrant of the "Crossroads of America" replaced Baur's Pharmacy, a longtime landmark. Swiss-born patriarch John Jacob Baur's children included Jacob, founder of Liquid Carbonics Inc.; Charles, owner of the Terre Haute House; Oscar, who revitalized the Terre Haute Brewing Co. after Prohibition; and Arthur, pharmacy proprietor after his father's death. John Jacob's step-daughter married Eugene V. Debs.

3 **Tribune Building***—721-725 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1914-15, when Crawford Fairbanks owned *The Tribune*, this Chicago Commercial six-story office building replaced several businesses including the Nickledom Theater at 721 Wabash. Eastward expansion integrated the 1908 superstructure at 729 Wabash which housed the **Varieties Theater** for vaudeville and the **Liberty Theater** for motion pictures.

4 **Fort Harrison Savings Association***—724 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1926, this Neoclassical structure includes an ovular skylight and an eagle and state seal on its façade. A pedestal clock once stood on the sidewalk in front of the building. It was east of the Lyric Theater, a vaudeville house later converted into the Orpheum Theater (720-722 Wabash).

5 **Rea Building***—726-730 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1889 by William S. Rea to house **Bement & Rea** wholesale grocery, in 1910 it was converted under architect Merrill Sherman into a commercial building after Bement, Rea & Co. moved to a new structure at 30 North Eighth. **McMillan Sports** occupied 726 Wabash.

6 **State Government Office Building***—30 North Eighth Street. After George W. Bement's death in 1903, William S. Rea built this building to house the **Bement, Rea & Co.** wholesale grocery business.

7 **Chase Bistro***—814 Wabash Avenue. Built in the late 1870s, this Italianate restaurant/saloon building has been preserved to reveal a painted advertisement on its east exterior wall. **Burns & Nugent** may have been its first restaurant, followed by **Jacob Hager's Fish and Oyster Bar.** For years it housed Steve Oltean's **Office Tavern.**

8 **Wabash Cigar Store**—815 Wabash Avenue. Built in the 1890s, this Neoclassical building originally was **August Hoberg's** notions store. From 1907 to 1945, the block catered to interurban customers with small shops (barber, shoeshine, tobacco), restaurants, billiard parlors and the American Theater, now Morris Plan. The **Waldorf Pool Hall** was here before 1969 when the Wabash Cigar Store was at 813 Wabash.

9 **Terminal Sports & Spirits***—820 Wabash Avenue. Completed in 1911 for the **Terre Haute, Indianapolis & Eastern Traction Co.,** this Wallmer Bedford limestone Classical Beaux Arts depot was designed by nationally renowned Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham as western headquarters for Indiana's second-biggest interurban. Burnham also designed terminals in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis. Indiana boasted more interurban track than any state except Ohio between 1900 and 1940. After 1949, the building was the local bus terminal until 1970.

10 **Hulman & Co.**—900 Wabash Avenue. Completed in 1893, this brick and stone structure with rugged Romanesque arches was designed by Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford. More than 5,000 people attended the grand opening of the largest wholesale grocery house in Indiana. Col. Richard W. Thompson, secretary of navy under President Hayes; Thomas Henry Nelson, President Lincoln's ambassador to Chile and President Grant's ambassador to Mexico; Col. William E. McLean, chief deputy commissioner of pensions under President Cleveland; and former Hulman & Co. employee Eugene V. Debs were among the featured speakers.

11 **Fuson Building**—18 South Ninth Street. Built in 1920, its Mission style was atypical to multistory commercial buildings. It succeeded Turner Hall and Germania Hall, once Indiana's largest German Club. The area is significant for its German influence: Hulman & Co.; St. Benedict's German Catholic Church, Friary, and School; E. Bleemel Flour & Feed; Matthias Mogger's Brewery; and Anton Mayer's Terre Haute Brewing Co. The Freidrich Hoffmann (822 Ohio), George Reiss (823 Ohio*) and Louis Finkbiner (827 Ohio*) homes nearby survive from the 1880s.

12 **Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Cathedral and Masonic Museum***—727 Ohio Street. Built as the 1,000-seat **Hippodrome** vaudeville theater in 1915-16 by Theodore Barhydt and designed by esteemed Austrian-born designer John Eberson and architect John Reed Fugard, it hosted stars of legitimate stage—including Valeska Suratt, Skeets Gallagher, Ross Ford and Alvy Moore, prominent Terre Haute stage, screen and television personalities. The Community Theater of Terre Haute staged its productions in this building from 1931 to 1947, when it was converted into the **Wabash**, a motion picture theater. The Scottish Rite acquired the theater about 1956. It is reputed to be the oldest Eberson German Renaissance style building extant in America.

13 **Indiana Theater***—683 Ohio Street. Dedicated January 28, 1922, this extraordinary Spanish Baroque terra cotta and brick theater was built by Theodore Barhydt and designed by Austrian-born architect John Eberson. Anchoring the east end of a block once designated Mansion Row, the theater, featuring marble terrazzo floors in the rotunda and sculpted figures in the ceiling, boasts the second-largest motion picture screen in Indiana and seats 1,660 people. The building's original cost was $750,000.

14 **Swope Block***—25 South Seventh Street. Completed in 1901 as a professional office building by diamond merchant Sheldon Swope, this Renaissance Revival structure with Kentucky Green River stone façade has been the home of **Swope Art Museum**, a premiere art museum, since 1942. It once housed Wabash Business College and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The bronze entry doors were especially cast by Ellison & Co. of Jamestown, New York. A few doors west (666-674 Ohio), the Ohio Building (1905), recently the Martin House cafeteria, initially housed the American-German Trust Co. and Harry M. Spang Real Estate. For several decades, the European-style Hotel Tuller occupied the second floor.

15 **First Congregational Church***—630 Ohio Street. Dedicated in 1903, it was the fourth edifice built by a congregation founded in 1834 by the Rev. M. Augustus Jewett. During the Civil War, noted author-editor Lyman Abbott was pastor. Its limestone-capped buttresses and lancet windows were designed by Terre Haute architect Juliet Peddle as part of a 1962 addition.

[Though the First Congregational Church is the only church described in this brochure, other churches in the downtown area are worthy of inspection: St. Benedict's Catholic Church (1899), St. Joseph's Catholic Church (1912), Central Presbyterian Church (1863), St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1862), Centenary United Methodist Church (1917), German Immanuel Lutheran Church* (1885) and the Allen Chapel African Methodist-Episcopalian Church* (1914). Also notable is the 1888 St. Joseph's Male Academy (105 South Fifth).]

16 **Federal Building***—30 North Seventh Street. Built in 1932 to replace the 1887 Federal Building, this Art Deco structure was designed by Terre Haute architects Miller & Yeager. Besides housing the community's main post office until 1997, as well as other federal offices, it accommodates a division of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. "The Signing of Magna Charta" by muralist Frederick Webb Ross on the second floor courtroom wall is worthy of inspection.

17 **Kaufman Block***—673-683 Wabash Avenue. This large Italianate structure built by grocer Andrew Kaufman in about 1865 in the southwest quadrant of the "Crossroads of America" has sheltered the **Crescent Theater, Wade Duncan's Cafe, Baur's Drug Store, Strupp Dental Laboratory, The Bon Ton, the Federal Bake Shop, Patsy Mahaney's Confectionery, Fannie May's Candies, Berkowitz Luggage, BookNation** and **Martin's Photo Shop** among others. Immediately west was the Bindley Block (661-669 Wabash), formerly home of the Princess Theater and Levinson's, built by wholesale druggist Edward H. Bindley.

18 **Chamber of Commerce**—643-645 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1904 for **United States Trust Co.** and designed by Solon S. Beman, the building was remodeled in 1927 when it merged into **Terre Haute First National Bank.** Its Beaux Arts entry leads into a chamber decorated with murals by Italian artist Vincenté Aderante. It served as Terre Haute First's main office until completion of First Financial Plaza, an impressive International style facility with alternating bands of glass and stone, in 1988. The Chamber of Commerce was in the Jacobean Revival office building at 623-639 Cherry, still known as the Chamber of Commerce Building*.

19 **Pawn-It**—622 Wabash Avenue. This 1880s commercial building has seen a variety of uses from **Sacks & Rottman's** tobacco store and **Jame-Wolf** women's clothing.

20 **Deming Center***—29 North Sixth Street. Built by "Boy Banker" Demas Deming Jr., the popular **Hotel Deming** opened October 18, 1914, at the original Congregational Church site. South of the hotel, the philanthropist erected an office building with storefronts and Ten Pins Bowling, known as Deming Block, destroyed in a downtown fire in 1963.

21 **Koopman Building***/Thiemann Office Supplies/Esquire Barber Shop—32-34 North Sixth Street. Built in 1876 by leather dealer Bernard Koopman, this Italianate building housed **Koopman's Leather Shop** and **Nehf's Hardware**, among many businesses.

22 **Sycamore Building***—19 South Sixth Street. Opened in 1922 as the **Citizens Trust Co.** with two state-of-the-art elevators, this building was erected in 11 months for about $318,000. It remains Terre Haute's tallest building with 12 stories. Its original Classical Revival style base was replaced by Art Deco features popular in the 1930s but the building, including the first-floor barber shop, is much the same. Now owned by Sunset Harbor Inc., the entryway includes a memorial to local pharmacist Conrad Herber, whose widow, Emma, once owned the building.

23 **Woodburn Graphics***—25 South Sixth Street. Built before 1859 by Dr. George W. Patrick, this Italianate building was owned for 32 years by merchant Major B. Hudson. In 1882, it was leased to **A.B. Mewhinney Co.**, the confectioner that introduced the candy bon bon to America. **Viquesney Co.** and one of its principals, T. Ross Woodburn, founder of **Woodburn Printing**, leased half of the building in 1902. Woodburn Printing bought the structure in 1948. In 1964, the company acquired 508-510 Ohio*, an 1891 Italianate structure built by Deloss Minshall divided into five bays by cast-iron pilasters. **Hebb & Goodwine** printing occupied one section; **Samuel Frank & Co.**, one of the city's large garment manufacturers, had the other.

24 **Blumberg Building***/Nasser Furniture—526 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1912 by the philanthropic Blumberg family, which also owned Kaufman Block and the Meis Building, its Chicago Commercial oolitic limestone façade reflects its original rosettes but not its name. The building was home for several furniture stores, particularly **Silverstein Brothers** and **Fair Furniture.** It was next to McKeen Bank (530 Wabash), a landmark designed by Italian-born Terre Haute architect Charles Eppinghousen that flaunted imported statues of Minerva and Mercury.

25 **Readmore***—524 Wabash Avenue. Originally the **Swope-Nehf Jewelry Co.**, this 1880s Romanesque Revival building survived the tragic December 18, 1898, Havens & Geddes Co. fire.

26 **Readmore***—522 Wabash Avenue. The Ford & Overstreet men's clothing store did not survive the Havens & Geddes fire but Augustus Ford replaced it with this building in 1899. **Sherman Men's Store** was here for many years.

27 **Ellis Plaza***—518-520 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1896 for **W.H. Albrecht & Co.** after the 1896 Naylor Opera House fire ravaged its previous quarters, on December 19, 1898, the Havens & Geddes Co. fire virtually destroyed the new building. In the second inferno, 18-year-old department store Santa Claus Claude Herbert, fire Capt. John Osterloo, Henry Nehf and Kate Maloney died. All but the spectacular Romanesque Revival Green River façade was rebuilt by building owners Max Hoberg and Sheldon Swope in time for reopening in July 1899. Terre Haute's Transit Utility will rededicate the Claude Herbert Memorial fountain at Fifth and Wabash one century after the fire.

28 **Cox, Zwerner, Gambill & Sullivan***—511-513 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1893 by the **First National Bank of Terre Haute**, it served as a downtown branch bank for many years. The current occupant has tastefully rehabilitated it.

29 **Andrea's Fine Footwear**—515 Wabash Avenue. Built in the early 1850s, one of the oldest downtown structures—once a part of Mechanics Row—has housed many tenants. Beginning in the late 1870s, the **T.H. Riddle Variety** occupied the entire building.

30 **Tofaute & Spelman**—20 South Fifth Street. Built about 1882, this building in Terre Haute's renowned Newspaper Row retains much of its original exterior. Between 1880 and 1900, as many as five of the city's nine newspapers were housed in this block. *The Saturday Evening Mail*, started by Maj. Orlando J. Smith in the building immediately north (then three stories high), was the primary tenant. After Smith moved to Chicago, where he founded The Associated Press, his successor, Perry S. Westfall, moved *The Mail* to this building. For a few years, the second floor harbored an early Hebrew synagogue. Other buildings in this block housed newspapers but their façades have changed.

31 **Saratoga Restaurant***—431 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1867, this French Second Empire structure was first occupied by **National State Bank** and then **Terre Haute National Bank**, predecessors of Terre Haute First National Bank. **Townsley Stove Co.** was also here. After the Malooley brothers acquired the Saratoga in the early 1940s, the business expanded west to include the building that housed **Simeon Cory Hardware** (the town of Cory is named for him) and **Pentecost & Craft Hardware.**

32 **Carr, Bell & Bauermeister Block***/Nasser Jewelry/Coffee Grounds—421-423 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1890, the east storefront of this Victorian Renaissance edifice was home to **Adolph Arnold's** men's furnishings for 30 years. **A&W Root Beer** later occupied it. **Strauss Millinery** was at 421 Wabash. The third floor was Masonic Lodge 86's hall.

33 **Marianna Building/BioMedical Center**—417 Wabash Avenue. The 1900 Neoclassical building, probably built by hatter John Sykes, was the home of **Max Showers' Clothing** as well as upstairs offices, for four decades. **Seibert, Good & Co. Bargain Store** preceded it.

34 **White Block/Orman Building***—424-430 Wabash Avenue. Built in 1899, after the Havens and Geddes Co. fire destroyed **Thorman & Schloss** clothing's 1867 building, the corner Romanesque Revival edifice with domed tower designed by architect John G. Vrydagh for William H. White housed offices, retail shops and the **Knights of Pythias.** In 1895, **Willis Wright's Big Furniture Store** occupied 422-426 Wabash. Later, **Charles W. Hamill's** and **Fountain Theater** occupied 426 Wabash. Farther west (420 Wabash) were J.B. Walsh Shoe Co. and, then, Fred J. Biel's Cigar Factory, where "Punch" greeted visitors at the door. Naylor Opera House anchored the west end of this block from 1870 to 1896.

35 **Modesitt Building**—319-325 Ohio Street. **The Airdome** was built in 1904 by playwright Samuel Young as Terre Haute's first open-air vaudeville theater. Before 1920 it was converted into the **Young Office Building. Downtown Chevrolet** and **Dahl Motors** occupied the ground floor. Young also owned the extinct Savoy Theater (323 Wabash) and the Indois Hotel (204 Wabash). He also built the Young Building at 817 Ohio (now Viquesney's). His namesake father founded Youngstown.

36 **Vigo County Courthouse***—33 South Third Street. Built between 1884 and 1888, this French Second Empire limestone building designed by Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford was placed in the middle of Court Square. The Soldiers and Sailors Civil War monument erected in 1909-10 on the northeast corner of Court Square was sculpted by Rudolph Schwarz for $22,000. Col. Richard W. Thompson's bust on the grounds was dedicated in 1906.

37 **Kesler Building***—219 Ohio Street. Built as a branch of the **Second State Bank of Indiana** between 1834 and 1836, Terre Haute's oldest commercial building has seen a variety of uses since 1867. Before it became **Memorial Hall** early in this century, this Greek Revival structure with columns was the Palace of Music operated by Lorenz Kussner. The Kussner family lived on the second floor. According to legend, Amalia Kussner—the world's foremost miniature portrait painter—sketched street scenes from its second story window as a youth. At the turn of the century, it was an antique shop. In 1910 it became headquarters for the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1921-22, baker Jerry Fitzgerald spearheaded financing of its renovation and rear expansion. Art glass portraits of 17 noteworthy Terre Haute citizens are installed in the ceiling dome.

38 **Star Building***—601-603 Ohio Street. Built in 1913, this Chicago Commercial building housed the *Terre Haute Star*—a descendant of the *Wabash Daily Express* (1851)—before the newspaper was acquired by the Tribune Publishing Co. in 1937. Capt. James Wasson's estate was at this site. After Wasson's death in 1840, Beebe and Hannah Booth lived here with their precocious children, including son Newton, later governor and U.S. senator from California, and Elizabeth, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author Booth Tarkington's mother. Beebe and Hannah Booth moved to the existing building at 607 Ohio, owned by son Newton, in 1874.

39 **Mace Service Power House**—629 Ohio Street (rear). From 1847 to 1876, Terre Haute was headquarters for the Wabash & Erie Canal. Four downtown sites housed the canal's chief office at different times. In 1853, a mansion was built for that purpose. The carriage house associated with that building, later wholesale grocer George W. Bement's residence, now houses a power plant. In 1864, resident canal trustee Thomas Dowling moved canal headquarters to Dowling Hall, an entertainment palace. In 1922, Dowling Hall was replaced by the Chanticleer Building* (20-26 North Sixth), with its Spanish Colonial Revival façade.

Terre Haute's rich heritage extends beyond downtown. For brochures describing other historical points of interest, visit the Terre Haute Convention and Visitors Bureau of Vigo County in the Chamber of Commerce at 643-645 Wabash Avenue.

TERRE HAUTE, PLATTED IN 1816, was incorporated as a town in 1832 and as a city in 1853. The original plat, consisting of 268 in-lots, extended east from the navigable Wabash River to Fifth Street, north to Eagle Street and south to Swan Street. Third Street was Market Street, 34 feet wider than most other avenues. Though Wabash Avenue was Main Street, it ended as a wilderness trail until Cumberland Road surveyors met it October 16, 1827. By 1838, the road, recently certified as a National Scenic Byway, reached Terre Haute.

Courthouse Square was the community's hub. Between 1834 and 1836, a branch of the State Bank of Indiana was erected on Ohio Street. By 1843, more than 100 businesses encircled the square. Chauncey Rose's Prairie House Hotel, at the present Terre Haute House site, was too far out in the country to draw many visitors and closed. Pioneer mansions gradually were raised along Ohio and Cherry streets near the commerce center. Churches and private schools were built in the periphery. Pork processing, milling, distilling, brewing, steamboat and barge traffic gave the village a busy aura. Laborers surveyed and laid the National Road. The anticipated arrival of the Wabash & Erie Canal brought more settlers. The largest manmade body of water built in the Western Hemisphere did not reach Terre Haute until October 25, 1849, but the town already was designated the official headquarters, a rank it retained until canal land was sold at auction in February 1876.

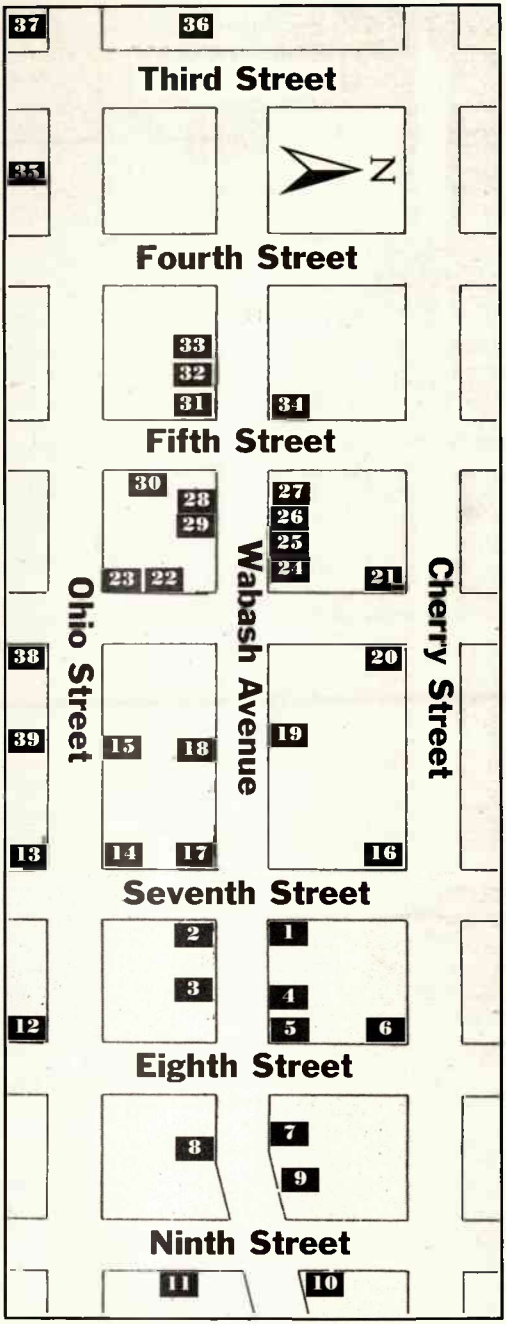
Barely two years after packet boats were common, Terre Haute began its century-long reign as a railroad hub. The maiden rail junket occurred February 14, 1852, on the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad, headed by Chauncey Rose. Since its debut, at least 11 railroads have served the community, nine at the same time. The Civil War curtailed pork trade with the South, which had reached its peak in 1852. But railways activated demand for the region's other natural resources: coal, iron ore and oil. By 1867, the Terre Haute Street Railway delivered Indiana State Fair tourists to the new east Wabash fairgrounds.

Downtown expanded. Theaters and vaudeville houses were situated in nearly every block. Hotels and sulfur spas flourished, particularly when tourists visited the city's famous Four-Cornered Track or one of its prominent opera houses. Educational institutions added culture. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (1840), Terre Haute Female College (1858), St. Agnes Hall (1863), Indiana State University (1865), Saint Bonaventure College (1876), Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (1877) and Coates College for Women (1885) attracted students from every state. Craft unions thrived. A convention that resulted in the American Federation of Labor met in an old church on the northeast corner of Fifth and Ohio streets in August 1881. The Vigo County Courthouse, dedicated June 7, 1888, anchors downtown's western vista.

By 1893, Terre Haute flaunted nine newspapers, four on South Fifth Street in Newspaper Row. Garment factories made clothes for workers. Hudnut Hominy Co. first marketed oil extracted from grain here in 1899. Before Prohibition, the city boasted the world's first- and third-largest distilleries, the nation's seventh-largest brewery, three major glass factories, iron and steel works, foundries, flour and woolen mills, food processing plants, wholesale grocery houses and several mammoth department stores. By 1904, trains made 104 daily passenger stops at three depots. The electric interurban was a transportation force by 1907, augmented in 1911 by a handsome terminal.

Railroads replaced canal packets; automobiles supplanted wagons; trucks and airplanes displaced the trains. Interstate 70 radically altered auto traffic, severely transforming downtown. Most structures described in this brochure were erected during the "Golden Era," 1875-1925. Amid the brick and mortar are many tales of a noble city with an extraordinary heritage optimistically embarking into the 21st century.

Buildings listed with an * are in the National Register of Historic Places



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